

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor and Municipal Council Hold Workshop For Resident Participation on Berry Lane Park Park Will be the First New Park to be Built in Jersey City in Decades

JERSEY CITY – **Mayor Healy** and the **Municipal Council** will host a workshop tonight to review concept plans for **Berry Lane Park**, a new park planned for Ward F, will be held from **7 to 9 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008, at Monumental Baptist church, 121 Lafayette Street.**

“We are on our way toward creating the first new municipal park in Jersey City in years – Berry Lane Park,” said **Mayor Healy**. “We are pleased to have the community involved in this process and know that when completed, Berry Lane Park will be located in the Bergen Lafayette section of our city and will be the recreational gem of Ward F.”

Berry Lane Park will have some 13 acres and provide football, baseball, and soccer fields, and the architect, Rogers Marvel, will lead the community workshop.

This will be the second in a continuing series of community workshops for Berry Lane Park. At the first workshop, residents chose which activities and uses should be included in the park. The architects have taken this information and designed three preliminary concept plans. On February 20, residents will be asked to tell the architects what works and what should be improved.

A "**Brownfields to Greenfields**" initiative, this project will transform approximately 13.5 acres of vacant and/or underutilized industrial and commercial property into a vibrant new urban park. Berry Lane Park will begin at the foot of Berry Lane and continue south to the Bergen-Hudson Light Rail System, and is bounded by Garfield Avenue on the West and Woodward Avenue on the East. The former Morris Canal runs the length of the site.

In the late 1990's, through the planning process, the City of Jersey City and community residents identified the site as a prime location for a future park. It became a key element in what is now known as the Morris Canal Redevelopment Plan.

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The City has already acquired approximately 6.4 acres from Conrail and will contribute an additional 1.9 acres acquired through tax foreclosure. The Jersey city Redevelopment Agency is currently in the process of acquiring the remaining 5.2 acres.

The creation of **Berry Lane Park** will increase usable open space available to Jersey City and Hudson County residents by over 9 percent and is one of the largest park projects to be undertaken by the City in decades.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.

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